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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 5, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 28 totaled an estimated 19.4 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 9 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 158.4 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 28 totaled 463,414 cars, 1.0 percent over 1980, and 5.2 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 5.6 percent in the East, and 1.2 percent in the South, but down 2.2 percent in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 130,515, the highest individual week since the week ended June 20, 1957. Nineteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended February 21 totaled 31,921 cars, down 4.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 58,019 trailers and/or containers, 3.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 8 weeeks of the year was 241,697 cars, 7.9 percent lower than last year, and 437,027 trailers and/or containers, down 7.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 02/28/81:

	Loadings in Week ended February 28, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,937	D	884	2.9	D	189	0.6
Other farm products	4,675	I	519	12.5	I	459	10.9
Metallic ores	26,012	I	2,852	12.3	I	1,065	4.3
Coal	130,515	I	23,993	22.5	I	4,264	3.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,193	D	2,468	18.1	I	790	7.6
Nonmetallic minerals	13,429	D	859	6.0	I	1,438	12.0
Grain mill products	16,383	D	2,159	11.6	I	154	1.0
Food and kindred products	17,447	D	2,251	11.4	I	964	5.9
Primary forest products	20,094	D	1,045	4.9	I	1,086	5.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,547	D	2,256	19.1	I	819	9.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,486	D	981	4.4	I	1,018	5.0
Chemicals and allied products	29,615	D	1,185	3.8	I	1,944	7.0
Petroleum products	5,431	D	934	14.7	I	62	1.2
Stone, clay and glass products	14,436	D	1,783	11.0	I	877	6.5
Coke	6,502	D	561	7.9	I	310	5.0
Metals and products	18,908	D	408	2.1	I	1,514	8.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,050	D	3,049	14.5	I	772	4.8
Waste and scrap materials	13,054	D	987	7.0	D	36	0.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,743	D	540	4.4	I	1,439	14.0
All other carloads	44,657	D	572	1.3	I	3,989	8.3
LCL traffic	300	I	2	0.7	I	30	11.1
Total Cars Loaded	463,414	I	4,444	1.0	I	22,769	5.2
Corresponding week of 1980	458,970						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,798,894	3,914,233	D	2.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
8 Weeks cumulative	139.0	137.3	I	1.2
Week ended February 28	19.4	19.1	I	1.3
9 weeks cumulative	158.4	156.4	I	1.3

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